

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. **(Currently amended)** A stamping film, ~~such as a hot stamping film or a laminating film,~~ for producing tamper-proof motor vehicle license plates, the stamping film comprising:
 - a carrier film and
 - a transfer layer which is detachable from the carrier film for fixing the transfer film ~~therefrom and which can be fixed~~ on a substrate of ~~the~~ a motor vehicle license plate, wherein starting from the carrier film the transfer layer includes, in successive order, a transparent release layer, an opaque decoration layer, a transparent protection layer, an optically variable layer, a reflection layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the decoration layer has mutually spaced areal interruptions at which the transparent protection layer adjoins the release layer and wherein the adhesive layer is provided for fixing the transfer layer to the substrate of the motor vehicle license plate, the optically variable layer being visible through the areal interruptions when the transfer layer is removed from the carrier film and fixed on the substrate of the motor vehicle.
2. **(Currently amended)** A stamping film for producing tamper-proof motor vehicle license plates, the stamping film comprising:
 - a carrier film; and

a transfer layer which is detachable from the carrier film for fixing the transfer film on a substrate of a motor vehicle license plate, wherein starting from the carrier film the transfer layer includes a transparent release layer, an opaque decoration layer, a transparent protection layer, an optically variable layer, a reflection layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the decoration layer has mutually spaced areal interruptions at which the transparent protection layer adjoins the release layer and wherein the adhesive layer is provided for fixing the transfer layer to the substrate of the motor vehicle license plate, A stamping film according to claim 1 wherein the areal interruptions of the decoration layer have a peripheral edge of a graphic configuration.

3. **(Currently amended)** A stamping film for producing tamper-proof motor vehicle license plates, the stamping film comprising:

a carrier film; and

a transfer layer which is detachable from the carrier film for fixing the transfer film on a substrate of a motor vehicle license plate, wherein starting from the carrier film the transfer layer includes a transparent release layer, an opaque decoration layer, a transparent protection layer, an optically variable layer, a reflection layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the decoration layer has mutually spaced areal interruptions at which the transparent protection layer adjoins the release layer and wherein the adhesive layer is provided for fixing the transfer layer to the substrate of the motor vehicle license plate, A stamping film according to claim 1 wherein the areal interruptions of the decoration layer are of small area dimensions which preferably occupy a proportion of surface area of less than 20%.

4. (Previously presented) A stamping film according to claim 1 wherein a colored layer is arranged between the reflection layer and the adhesive layer.

5. (Previously presented) A stamping film according to claim 4 wherein a bonding layer is provided between the reflection layer and the colored layer.

6. **(Cancelled)**

7. **(Currently amended)** A stamping film according to claim ~~[[6]]~~ 8, wherein the diffractive relief structure forms a hologram.

8. **(Currently amended)** A stamping film for producing tamper-proof motor vehicle license plates, the stamping film comprising:

a carrier film; and

a transfer layer which is detachable from the carrier film and which can be fixed on a substrate of a motor vehicle license plate, wherein starting from the carrier film the transfer layer includes, in successive order, a transparent release layer, an opaque decoration layer, a transparent protection layer, an optically variable layer, a reflection layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the decoration layer has mutually spaced areal interruptions at which the transparent protection layer adjoins the release layer and wherein the adhesive layer is provided for fixing the transfer layer to the substrate of the motor vehicle license plate, wherein the optically variable layer is a replication layer with a diffractive relief structure, A stamping film according

~~to claim 6~~ wherein the diffractive relief structure is a relief structure which diffracts the incident light directed in one or more directions from specular reflection.

9. **(Currently amended)** A stamping film for producing tamper-proof motor vehicle license plates, the stamping film comprising:

a carrier film; and

a transfer layer which is detachable from the carrier film for fixing the transfer film on a substrate of a motor vehicle license plate, wherein starting from the carrier film the transfer layer includes a transparent release layer, an opaque decoration layer, a transparent protection layer, an optically variable layer, a reflection layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the decoration layer has mutually spaced areal interruptions at which the transparent protection layer adjoins the release layer and wherein the adhesive layer is provided for fixing the transfer layer to the substrate of the motor vehicle license plate, A stamping film according to claim 1 wherein the optically variable layer has includes at least one of a macrostructure the dimensions of which are ≥ 0.4 mm and the extreme value spacing of which is ≥ 0.1 mm, a matt structure and nanotext.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. **(Currently amended)** A stamping film for producing tamper-proof motor vehicle license plates, the stamping film comprising:

a carrier film; and

a transfer layer which is detachable from the carrier film for fixing the transfer film on a substrate of a motor vehicle license plate, wherein starting from the carrier film the transfer layer includes a transparent release layer, an opaque decoration layer, a transparent protection layer, an optically variable layer, a reflection layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the decoration layer has mutually spaced areal interruptions at which the transparent protection layer adjoins the release layer and wherein the adhesive layer is provided for fixing the transfer layer to the substrate of the motor vehicle license plate. ~~A stamping film according to claim 1~~ wherein the optically variable layer has a pattern with first and second partial surfaces, wherein the first partial surfaces form background surfaces in the pattern and the second partial surfaces form pattern elements in the pattern, wherein the first partial surfaces have mirror surfaces reflecting the incident light or relief structures for directly diffracting the incident light and the second partial surfaces have relief structures of a predetermined optically effective structural depth which include absorber surfaces for the incident light so that in a given direction the light which is diffracted or reflected at the first partial surfaces is present as a background surface in relation to dark, light-absorbing pattern elements, and in other directions the intensities per unit of surface area of the light scattered in the background surfaces and in the pattern elements are equal so that the contrast between the background surfaces and the pattern elements is markedly reduced or extinguished.

13. (Previously presented) A stamping film according to claim 12 wherein the first partial surfaces are flat mirror surfaces so that the pattern in the reflected light has the intensively

light mirror surfaces of the background surfaces and the dark, light-absorbing pattern elements and in directions other than that of the reflected light the intensities per unit of surface area of the light scattered in the background surfaces and in the pattern elements are equal so that there is no contrast between the background surfaces and the pattern elements.

14. (Previously presented) A stamping film according to claim 13 wherein the first partial surfaces are mirror surfaces which are inclined in one or more directions with respect to the plane defined by the stamping film so that in the direction of the light reflected at the plane the intensities of the light scattered in the background surfaces and of the light scattered in the pattern elements are equal so that there is no contrast between the background surfaces and the pattern elements and in one or more other directions there are the intensive light mirror surfaces of the background surfaces and the dark, light absorbing pattern elements.

15. **(Currently amended)** A stamping film according to claim 12, wherein the relief structures of the second partial surfaces are a cross-grating composed of two base gratings arranged in ~~substantially~~ mutually right-angled relationship, wherein the periods of the base gratings are shorter than a predetermined limit wavelength of the visible light.

16. **(Currently amended)** A stamping film according to claim 12, wherein the effective structural depth of the relief structure of the second partial surfaces is of a value ~~of~~ between 50 nm and 500 nm.

17. (Previously presented) A stamping film according to claim 16 wherein the pattern has regions with various gray stages which differ by the optically effective structural depth.

18. (Previously presented) A stamping film according to claim 1 wherein the optically variable layer is a thin-film element for producing a color change by interference.

19. (Previously presented) A stamping film according to claim 18 wherein the optically variable layer has an absorption layer and a spacer layer.

20. (Previously presented) A stamping film according to claim 18 wherein the thin-film element has a number of thin layers with different refractive indexes.

21. (Previously presented) A stamping film according to claim 1 wherein the optically variable layer has at least one polarization layer.

22. (Previously presented) A stamping film according to claim 1 wherein the reflection layer is a metal thin layer.

23. (Previously presented) A stamping film according to claim 1 wherein the reflection layer is formed by at least one dielectric layer comprising an inorganic dielectric.

24. (Previously presented) A stamping film according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the release layer, the decoration layer, the protection layer and the colored layer contains at least one of a UV absorber and a HALS stabilizer additive[s] for improving UV resistance.

25. (Previously presented) A stamping film according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the decoration layer and the colored layer contains amorphous carbon.

26. **(Currently amended)** A tamper-proof motor vehicle license plate comprising:
~~a substrate on which~~ a transfer layer ~~[[of]]~~ from a stamping film; and
a substrate of a motor vehicle license plate, wherein the transfer layer is fixed on the
substrate, wherein, the transfer layer including, in successive order, includes a transparent release layer, an opaque decoration layer, a transparent protection layer, an optically variable layer, a reflection layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the decoration layer has mutually spaced areal interruptions where the transparent protection layer adjoins the release layer and wherein the adhesive layer secures the transfer layer to the substrate of the motor vehicle license plate, the optically variable layer being visible through the areal interruption from the transparent release layer side of the transfer layer.

27. (Previously Presented) A tamper-proof motor vehicle license plate according to claim 26 wherein the areal interruptions of the decoration layer have a peripheral edge of a graphic configuration.

28. (Previously Presented) A tamper-proof motor vehicle license plate according to claim 27 wherein the areal interruptions of the decoration layer are of small area dimensions which occupy a proportion of surface area of less than 20%.

29. (Previously Presented) A tamper-proof motor vehicle license plate according to claim 26 wherein a colored layer is arranged between the reflection layer and the adhesive layer.

30. (Previously Presented) A tamper-proof motor vehicle license plate according to claim 26 wherein at least one of the release layer, the decoration layer, the protection layer and the colored layer contains at least one of a UV absorber and an HALS stabilizer additives for improving UV resistance.

31. (Previously Presented) A tamper-proof motor vehicle license plate according to claim 26 wherein at least one of the decoration layer and the colored layer contains amorphous carbon.

32. **(Currently amended)** A stamping film for producing tamper-proof motor vehicle license plates, comprising:

a carrier film; and

a transfer layer removeably secured to the carrier film, ~~the transfer layer fixed~~ for fixing to a substrate of the motor vehicle license plate, the transfer layer including a transparent release layer, an opaque decoration layer, a transparent protection layer, an optically variable layer, a reflection layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the opaque decoration layer includes areal interruptions at a location where the transparent protection layer joins the release layer, ~~and further~~ wherein the adhesive layer secures the transfer layer to the substrate of the motor vehicle license plate when fixed thereon, wherein the optically variable layer includes an asymmetrical

Applicants: Sussner et al.
Serial No.: 10/599,678
Filing Date: October 5, 2006
Docket No.: 1093-163 PCT/US
Response to September 1, 2011 Office Action
Page 12 of 17

macrostructure that reflects incident light directed in one or more directions from specular reflection.